

QA-316

Howard Wood III Law Office  
Centreville  
Private

circa 1870

This two story frame building has served a variety of uses over the years, ranging from a law office to a feed mill office. It stands out in sharp contrast to the other buildings on Lawyers Row due to the frame construction, high granite foundation, and distinctive rectangular form, surmounted by a hip roof and widow's walk.

The early history of the building is unclear, complicated somewhat by the confusing land transactions that have occurred on Lawyers Row and by the overall form of the building. The basic plan and exterior massing of the building are most typical of the mid-19th century, thus it is somewhat surprising to find that the building was probably not constructed until 1870. There is no evidence that the building was moved from another site however, and it seems safe to assume that this was a relatively late example of the side hall plan and Greek Revival style. Regardless, it is believed to be the earliest surviving building on Lawyers Row.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Howard Wood III Law Office

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

119 Lawyers Row

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☒ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Howard Wood III

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21617

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: TSP 50

Folio #: 553

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

QA-316

**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The law office of Howard Wood III stands on the southeast corner of Lawyers Row and Liberty Street in Centreville, facing the west end of the Court House green. It is believed to date to circa 1870 and is possibly the oldest building on Lawyers Row.

Of frame construction, this building is two stories high, three bays wide, and one room deep, with a shallow hip roof surmounted by a widow's walk. The exterior shows little evidence of alteration, while the interior has been modified to some extent over the years to accommodate a variety of uses.

The principal entrance door, with a two-light transom, is located in the east bay of the front (north) facade, with two 6/6 windows to the right on the first floor and three 6/6 windows on the second floor. The interior side hall plan is reflected in the fenestration, in that the east bay is offset slightly to the left, and the center and right bays are more closely spaced. A pair of four-light cellar windows pierce the granite foundation in the center bay. This facade is covered with beaded horizontal weatherboards and

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## PERIOD

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This two story frame building has served a variety of uses over the years, ranging from a law office to a feed mill office. It stands out in sharp contrast to the other buildings on Lawyers Row due to the frame construction, high granite foundation, and distinctive rectangular form, surmounted by a hip roof and widow's walk.

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## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

QA-316

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

10/10/80

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

Field Notebook QA-XI; Recorded September, 1979.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.1 DESCRIPTION

plain cornerboards. The eaves are finished with a box cornice with a complex crown mold, a deep soffit and a small bed mold. The deck of a widow's walk has survived along the ridge of the standing seam hip roof; the ballustrade is no longer in place.

On the west gable wall, facing Liberty Street, there are two 6/6 windows on the first and second floor, a covered, pitched roof bulkhead cellar entrance in the north bay of the foundation and a two-light cellar window in the south bay. The granite foundation, beaded siding, and box cornice match the front facade.

The fenestration on the rear facade does not line up with the front facade. There are two 6/6 windows on each floor, one in the west bay and one between the center and the east bay. The foundation on this facade is brick, not granite, and the weatherboards are unbeaded. A pair of two light cellar windows pierce the foundation.

On the east gable wall, there is one 6/6 window in the north bay on the first and second floor and two 2-light cellar windows. The foundation is brick; the siding is unbeaded.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.2 DESCRIPTION

The interior plan has been altered to some degree, leaving the original plan unclear. At present, there is an enclosed stair immediately inside the front door rising against the east gable wall of the building. A door opens from a small vestibule hall at the foot of the stair into the remainder of the first floor, which is partitioned into two rooms, an outer reception room and a more private office to the west. The exterior form and overall arrangement of space suggests the original plan was a side hall, single parlor, but no confirming evidence can be found. A safe under the stairs in the reception room is identified as a product of the Mosler Bahmann Co. of Cincinnati, Ohio. On an inner drawer are the initials of Edwin H. Brown, who owned the building and used it as a law office at the turn of the century. To the right of the safe is a cupboard with a four-panel door. A brick stove chimney is located on the south wall. There are no other details of particular significance on the first floor. It is unclear if the stair has always been enclosed. The ballustrade on the first floor consists of a turned newel at the foot of the stair and a plain rail without ballusters. On the second floor landing,

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.3 DESCRIPTION

the newels are chamfered, with a plain rail and square ballusters.

The second floor plan consists of a stair hall across the east gable and two rooms to the west. The north end of the hall has been partitioned for a modern bathroom. The partition between the two west rooms appears to be 20th century, adding credence to an original side hall, single parlor plan. A hatch in the ceiling of the middle room permits access to the attic and the widow's walk.

From the cellar it is possible to determine that the foundation is granite on all four walls, but that on the rear and east gable walls, the granite does not extend above ground level, giving way to a lighter brick foundation. The vertically sawn floor joists are laid parallel to the gable walls and are stabilized with original diagonal bridging secured with machine nails. The cellar was at one time plastered, but most of the plaster is gone, leaving evidence of machine lathing nails.



BELVEDERE AVE.

CHESTERFIELD AVE. MD. 304

STREET

STREET

LIBERTY

QA-316 HOWARD WOOD  
LAW OFFICE

WATER

LAWYERS ROW

BROADWAY

COMMERCE

JOSEPH R.  
RICHARDSON &  
FREDA C.W. SMITH  
CWC 107/170

P. 81

GEORGE E. ICKES, ETAL  
CWC 73/659

ALICE JEWELL  
TSP 28/108  
R 80

W. HARMAN EATON  
TSP 62/118  
R 85

MARY E. RUNER  
CWC 118/434  
P. 84

ELIZABETH H. COLLINS  
CWC 37/11  
R 88

LESTER C. LEONARD, JR.  
CWC 86/498  
R 87

LESTER C. LEONARD  
CWC 80/81  
R 87

COUNTY JAIL  
R 70

SYDNEY G. ASHLEY  
MWM 143/468  
P. 89

SYDNEY G. ASHLEY  
MWM 143/468  
P. 71

CARLTON ROE  
TSP 80/9  
R 79

HELEN ROE, ETAL  
CWC 36/460  
R 78

DAVID B. SKINNER  
CWC 107/478  
R 77

E.J. MITCHELL  
CWC 28/460  
R 76

MIRIAM  
CHAMBERS  
TSP 27/9  
PARCELA

SYDNEY G.  
ASHLEY  
CWC 142/485  
P. 74

JAMES SEWARD  
TSP 32/528  
R 72

DALE E. AXTELL  
CWC 140/214  
R 48

CENTREVILLE METHODIST CHURCH  
TSP 47/848  
R 42

ELIZABETH TUTTLE  
CWC 25/61  
R 41

WILLIAM R. JUMP  
CWC 77/938  
P. 81

GOODWILL FIRE CO. INC.  
ASG JR. 17/880  
R 40

GOODWILL FIRE CO. INC.  
CWC 25/172  
R 39

JOHN W. HURT, JR.  
No DAWNS MARKET  
CWC 84/64  
P. 38

CENTREVILLE L.  
STREET LTD. PA  
CWC 142/688  
R 87

STATE OF MARYLAND  
(BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS)  
CWC 132/443  
1.62 A  
P. 34

FARMERS NATIONAL BANK  
CWC 117/24  
0.18 A  
P. 33

BAY PUBLISH  
CORP  
CWC 112/57  
P. 30

FARMERS NATIONAL  
BANK  
CWC 117/22  
0.24 A  
P. 32

J.R. SMITH, JR.  
TSP 84/206  
R 28

M. B. HERMAN, JR.  
CWC 24/427  
R 17

FARMERS NATIONAL  
BANK  
CWC 117/20  
0.20 A  
P. 31

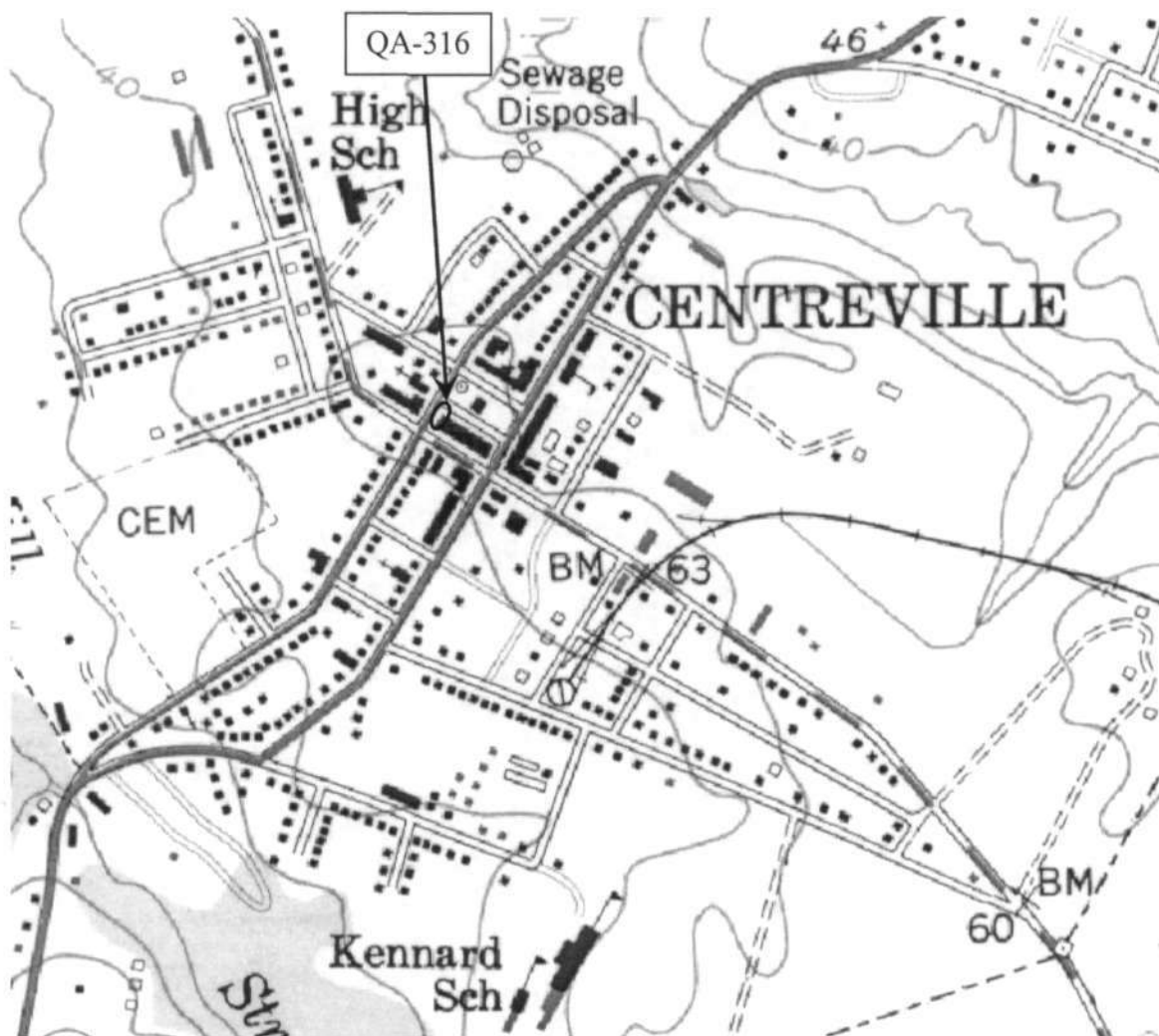
CLIN PEPIN  
JFR 10/208  
CWC 137/808  
R 15

JAMES M. CHANCE  
TSP 23/48  
R 12

DEPT OF ASSESSMENTS & TAXATION  
TAX MAP DIVISION

REVISED TO DATE JUNE 1 '79 LHM 1501

QA-316  
Howard Wood III Law Office  
119 Lawyers Row  
Centreville  
Centreville Quad.  
Queen Anne's Co.



Mary McCarthy  
Spring/Summer 2003  
Digital color photo on file at MHT

QA-316  
Howard Wood III  
Law office  
119 Lawyers Row  
centreville





QA-316    Howard Wood Law Office  
            Lawyers Row  
            Centreville, Maryland  
            Orlando Ridout V 1980  
            Front facade from Northwest



QA-316

Howard Wood Law Office

Lawyers Row

Centreville, Maryland

Orlando Ridout V 1980

~~Front~~ facade from ~~Northwest~~

*Rear*

*Southwest*